

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sealed electric power generating product including:
 - a base plate,
 - a power generating film laminated over said base plate,
 - at least one contact portion for contacting at least one pole of said power generating film,
 - an electric conductor going through a blind hole between the internal side of said base plate and said contact portion, said electric conductor being electrically connected with said contact portion, and
 - a sealing material positioned within ~~applied at an outer side of~~ the blind hole, wherein said electric conductor is provided through said sealing material to said contact portion, whereinsaid blind hole is a hole perforated through said base plate after the lamination of said power generating film over said base plate, and wherein
- said blind hole has ~~having~~ lateral sides being even and a bottom having an uneven surface at said contact portion with said electric conductor being connected to said uneven surface using a weld.

2. (original) The product of claim 1, wherein said at least one contact portion is provided on the upper side of said film opposite said base plate, said blind hole traversing said base plate and said film.

3. (original) The product of claim 1, wherein said contact portion comprises a metallic band running along substantially the full length of said film.

4. (original) The product of claim 3, comprising two metallic bands running along two opposite sides of said film, and at least two electric conductors going through two blind holes for connecting each said metallic band.

5. (original) The product of claim 1, wherein said base plate is a rigid plate.

6. (original) The product of one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein said base plate comprises at least one metal layer.

7. (original) The product of claim 6, wherein said base plate comprises one layer of insulator between two layers of metal.

8. (original) The product of claim 1, wherein said base plate is suitable for covering external building walls.

9. (original) The product of claims 1, wherein said power generating film comprises a plurality of silicon layers over a flexible substrate.

10. (original) The product of claim 1, further comprising a transparent encapsulation layer over said photovoltaic film, said encapsulation layer being made of an organic material.

11. (currently amended) The product of claim 1, wherein said sealing material is also for sealing said blind hole.

12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented) The product of claim 1, wherein said electric conductor is electrically connected with said contact portion via a weld.

14. (previously presented) The product of claim 1, wherein the bottom of said blind hole is a conical shape.

15. (previously presented) The product of claim 1, wherein said contact portions are locally reinforced with a supplementary layer of metal.

16. (previously presented) The product of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of said blind holes and a plurality of junction boxes, wherein each one of said junction boxes is mounted over a corresponding one of said blind holes.

17. (currently amended) A sealed electric power generating product including:

a base plate,

a power generating film laminated over said base plate,

at least one contact portion for contacting at least one pole of said power generating film,

an electric conductor going through a blind hole between the internal side of said base plate and said contact portion, said electric conductor being electrically connected with said contact portion via a weld, and said blind hole having: a bottom with a conical shape for receiving said electric conductor with said weld, and substantially even sides, and

a sealing material being positioned within ~~applied at an outer side of~~ the blind hole for sealing said blind hole, wherein said electric conductor is provided through said sealing material to said contact portion at said weld.

18. (previously presented) The product of claims 17, wherein said power generating film comprises a plurality of silicon layers over a flexible substrate.

19. (currently amended) The product of claim 17, further comprising a transparent encapsulation layer over said power generating film, said encapsulation layer being made of an organic material.

20. (previously presented) The product of claim 17, further comprising a plurality of said blind holes and a plurality of junction boxes, wherein each one of said junction boxes is mounted over a corresponding one of said blind holes.

21. (new) A sealed electric power generating product

including:

- a base plate,
- a power generating film laminated over said base plate,
- at least one contact portion for contacting at least one pole of said power generating film,
- an electric conductor going through a blind hole between a side of said base plate and said contact portion, said electric conductor being electrically connected with said contact portion, said blind hole having lateral sides and the contact portion at the bottom of the blind hole; and
- a sealing material being positioned within the blind hole for sealing said blind hole, wherein said electric conductor is provided through said sealing material to said contact portion, and wherein said sealing material prevents said conductor from contacting the lateral sides of the blind hole.

22. (new) The product of claim 21, wherein said conductor is a wire welded to said contact portion.

23. (new) The product of claim 22, wherein the contact portion has an uneven surface facilitating cohesion of said welded wire to said contact portion.